

Fair Play.

Published Every Saturday.
ST. LOUIS, MO. - MISSOURI.

DON'T BE IN A HURRY.

Don't be in a hurry to answer yes or no; nothing's lost by being reasonably slow. In a hurry you may give consent, and through years of torment bitterly repent.

If a lover seeks you to become his wife, happiness or misery may be yours for life; don't be in a hurry your feelings to confess, but think the matter over before you answer yes.

Should one ask forgiveness for a grave offense? Honest tears betray earnest penitence, pity and consideration will surely follow. And don't be in a hurry to shed the cloud away.

Hurry brings us worry; worry wears us out. Easy-going people know what they're about. Heedless haste will bring us surely to the ditch. And trouble overwhelms us if we hurry to be rich.

Don't be in a hurry to throw yourself away; by the side of wisdom for a while delay. Make your life worth living; nobly act your part. And don't be in a hurry to speak at the start.

Don't be in a hurry to spend an angry word; don't be in a hurry to spread the tale you've heard. Don't be in a hurry with evil ones to go. And don't be in a hurry to answer yes or no.

A PAIR OF MUTES.

Mr. John Spencer was an attorney with something of a fortune, and of the comfortable age of five and thirty; that age when man is at his best physically and nature has filled out his frame with the necessary padding of flesh without obesity—when the wrinkles are not in his neck nor gray hairs in his mustache, although at that age he is apt to be "well set" in his ways.

The past winter had been one of unusually hard work, but not without pecuniary returns, so that when he was seriously threatened with paralysis of the throat, and upon consulting an eminent physician was told that rest and absolute silence were his only hope, he felt that he had reached the end of his road, but at a rather high price. He was ordered to make no vocal sound, as his worn-out muscles were to be let entirely alone to recuperate for at least three months. If he had anything to say it must be done in writing, but not a word on pain of entire loss of speech.

As the summer vacation was at hand he selected a home in the country as his place of exile, for when one has friends one must talk. The choice was a wise one, for the farmer and his wife were quiet, intelligent people, whose children were all grown up and had made their own way in the world. The house was pleasantly situated near a river, so there was plenty of fishing and boating. To a man so long deprived of sport of this kind there was a boyish zest in renewing it for life had not had much play in it for him, but he had made up his mind to be a boyish man for the rest of his life.

In his struggle for a place in life he had become rather cynical, especially so about women, as he knew practically nothing about them. His theories about them were only theories, but they were very theories. He disliked the sex on what is vaguely called "general principles," and shunned them, one and all. On his arrival, true to the choice of the two biggest, more room for boots to stand round in and to scatter pipes and such like manly belongings. He had been pleasantly established with his books, fishing rods, cigars and all those things which seem necessary to a man who is reaching that period of bachelorhood called contentment.

Before his coming all the arrangements for his stay had been made by letter, and on his arrival, tablets presented with the request written to be shown to his room made the good lady of the house suppose he was deaf and dumb, which was just to his mind, for he did not want to be bored with the woman's curiosity. If he made an explanation he would have to answer innumerable questions. If he did not it would be natural for her to come to the conclusion she had.

As the day of July became hotter and the fishing began to pull, the most interesting books had been read, he began to weary of his enforced silence, and longed for something to break the monotony. Before long he had it. One day Mr. Grey drove over from the station with a trunk in the wagon behind and a young woman on the seat beside him. When Mr. Spencer looked out it was not with a smiling countenance, but rather a cross one, for his seclusion would be intruded on. Nevertheless, he watched the process of alighting and removing the heavy trunk with that interest bored people watch anything that is something new. He muttered something about "serawny, faded," as the young woman was helped down, and returned to his pipe.

Laura Hyde came to Mr. Grey's to recuperate after a severe winter, teaching vocal music in the public schools of the same city of which Mr. Spencer was a resident, and strange as it may seem, for the same thing. Her voice had become so impaired with overwork that she was threatened with the total loss of her voice, and she commanded entire silence through the summer, plenty of fresh air and whole some food as the only means of cure. The poor girl could see no way to accomplish this, but she resolved to throw herself on the generosity of the Greys, as Mrs. Grey was a relative of her mother, explaining the whole situation. They, being good, charitable people, took her in for the least possible pay, for she refused to come unless she were permitted to pay something, however small the amount.

Mr. Spencer went down to tea in a selfish frame of mind, wishing that that woman had not intruded on his domain, but when he saw how tired, worn and spiritless the obnoxious person looked he relented somewhat and went through an introduction (written on the tablets) with as much graciousness as he could command. He noticed Miss Hyde only answered remarks by a movement of the head, and heard Mrs. Grey explaining in her kindly way all about his own affliction—"Deaf and dumb, poor thing. Not a bit of trouble, but he does smoke dreadfully."

Laura was given the little room rejected by him, and was as quiet a neighbor as a man could wish. A man of Mr. Spencer's habits could not be expected to take much interest in a neighbor. The only thing that struck him was that she seemed to be that rare anomaly—a woman who could hold her tongue. He gave her but little of his thought; merely bowed when passing on the stairway or in the hall.

For some time she moved about the house listlessly, with a tired look, but that faded in a few weeks; for she began, with good food, fresh air and rest she began in a few weeks to feel the influence of the place, and her expression changed to a brighter, rested one, which at least made her pleasant to look at.

Mr. Blaine Falsifies and Begs for a "Character."

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